

Lexington Sister Cities Student Exchange Program



Newmarket England

2020 Student Exchange Application

Please attach a current photo. Make sure it is a close-up, like one you would have with a driver's license. An informal photo is okay.

Name: _____

School: _____

Age by July 2020: _____

(Must be 13 by July 1, 2020)



Lexington Sister Cities
Deauville, County Kildare, Shinhidaka, Newmarket

Lexington Sister Cities
200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
859-258-3137

Sister Cities does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, national origin or sexual orientation in any of its programs, activities or operations.

Newmarket-Lexington Student Exchange Program

Dear Parents:

We are excited your student is interested in participating in the 2020 Lexington-Newmarket Student Exchange. The purpose of this exchange program is to provide a genuine cultural and family experience in another country for middle and high school students of Lexington, Kentucky and those of Newmarket, England.

As parents/guardians, you must be willing and able to receive an English student in your home as part of the program. Students from Lexington will visit England in the summer, while students from England will visit Lexington in the fall. The Newmarket and Lexington students will be together for both parts of the exchange program.

To be selected for our program, students should exhibit maturity, flexibility, an interest in the English culture, and qualities that would make them a good ambassador for Lexington, Kentucky, and the United States.

Students must turn 13 by July 1, 2020 to participate in the program. **Please note that students over the age of 16 before August 1, 2020 will not be considered for this program.**

Applications are due to the Lexington Sister Cities office by Friday, November 1, 2019.

Applications can be emailed to abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov, mailed, or dropped off to:

**Lexington Sister Cities
ATTN: Alexandra Brewsaugh
200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507.**

Applications should include the following items:

- Completed Lexington-Newmarket Student Exchange Application
- \$25 Application Fee
- Current Photo
- Two recommendation letters from a teacher or counselor. (These may be turned in separate from the application if the teacher wishes to send it in separately. Letters should be received by the scheduled interview time for the student. Teachers should either send them to Lexington Sister Cities by mail or email them to Alexandra Brewsaugh at abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov).

After applications have been received, an interview date will be set up. Our main means of communication is through email, so please ensure all email addresses are listed on your son or daughter's application.

Upon acceptance into this program, monthly orientations will be held to prepare your student for the trip.

You will find on the next page a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" about our exchange program to Newmarket. Please read through this sheet prior to your scheduled interview.

Both parents should sign this application to indicate their consent to the submission of this application.

Thanks for your interest in our program. We look forward to meeting you and your student at the interview.

Lexington-Newmarket Committee

Lexington-Newmarket Student Exchange Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How long is the exchange?
 - a. Lexington students travel to Newmarket for 10-12 days; Newmarket students travel to Lexington for 7-10 days.
2. What are the dates for the exchange?
 - a. While we don't have exact dates for the 2020 exchange, we can give some approximate time frames. Lexington students may travel to England sometime between the end of June through the end of July. Newmarket students usually visit Lexington around the end of October.
3. Is there a chaperone for the students?
 - a. Yes. The chaperone is usually a teacher or member of Lexington Sister Cities. They will be available at orientations for parents and students to meet and get to know.
4. Who will my student stay with during the exchange?
 - a. Your student will be matched with a student from Newmarket – that will be their host family while they are in England.
5. How are the host families in Newmarket selected?
 - a. The Sister Cities Committee in Newmarket (called the “Lexington Link”) selects their host families in a similar process to ours. Because Newmarket is a much smaller town and there is only one school, the committee members usually know the families really well even before selection.
6. How much does the exchange cost?
 - a. Other than the \$25 application fee, the cost will be between \$1,700 and \$1,900, depending on current airline prices. Once accepted, a \$200 non-refundable deposit is due to Sister Cities at the first orientation. If necessary, payment plans can be arranged. However, the full amount of the airline ticket will be due at least 90 days from departure. Scholarships are available for financial need – the scholarship application can be found on the website.
7. What are some other costs we may incur?
 - a. Other costs for the students include spending money for gifts, souvenirs, et cetera; as well as obtaining a passport if they do not have one already.
8. When are the interviews for the exchange?
 - a. Interviews will be scheduled either mid-November or early December. Interviews will only last about 30 minutes per family. If possible, both parents/guardians should attend the interview.
9. What happens after my student gets selected?
 - a. The Lexington-Newmarket Committee will inform the student and their parents at the interview when the acceptances will be emailed out to the students. Once the student receives their acceptance email, they will be given a date to accept their spot in the program by – this date is usually 24-48 hours after the acceptance email is sent.
 - b. Once students have accepted their spot in the program, a \$200 non-refundable deposit should be sent to Lexington Sister Cities. This will be applied towards your airfare.
 - c. Monthly orientations will start in February. Orientations are MANDATORY for participation in the program. At least one parent should attend each meeting with their student.
10. What is provided to my student while they are in England?
 - a. While your student is in England, accommodation and meals will be provided by the host family. Exceptions may include if the students are out together and they get ice cream/coffee/etc. This would be something your student would use spending money for.
11. What are we expected to provide for the Newmarket student while they are in Lexington?
 - a. While the Newmarket student is in Lexington, you are expected to provide meals and accommodations. Treat them as an additional child in your family – anything you would pay for your own child, you should pay for the Newmarket student as well.
12. What if my student gets sick while in England?
 - a. Just as you would care for a sick child in your home, so will your student's host family. We ask that you check with your insurance company before your child departs to make sure you are covered for international expenses.
13. Are there group activities planned by Sister Cities?
 - a. Yes – both in England and in Lexington the committees plan groups activities and dinners.

14. Can my child drive while in England?
 - a. No.
15. Can my child drive their Newmarket student while in Lexington?
 - a. Yes, if they have a valid driver's license that permits them to drive others in his/her car.
16. Can I call/email/text my child while they are in England?
 - a. Yes – BUT we prefer that this is done only occasionally. The students are in England to immerse themselves in culture and family life – this cannot be done if they are on their cell phones too much. This will be discussed during our orientations.
17. How does the committee decide how to match the students?
 - a. We gather information from both applications and the Lexington student's interview to try and match based on: common interests, age & gender (if you have specified you cannot host a student of the opposite gender, you will not be expected to), and other specifications such as pet allergies.
18. My child is hoping their counterpart will end up being their best friend. Is this the case?
 - a. While many great, lasting friendships have been made on our exchange programs, not every match is perfect. Both committees do their best to match the students, but sometimes the students do not end up being best friends. However, they are both still provided with a great opportunity to have a cultural experience that they should take advantage of, regardless of their similarities to their counterpart.

For other questions about our exchange programs, you can contact Lexington Sister Cities at:

Alexandra Brewsaugh
abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov
859-258-3137

Lexington Sister Cities Commission
200 E. Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Fax – 859-425-2053

Facebook – www.facebook.com/lexingtonsistercities
Instagram - @lexingtonsistercities
Twitter - @lexsistercities
Blog – lexingtonsistercities.blogspot.com



Lexington-Newmarket Student Exchange 2020

Student Exchange Application

Email completed application to abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov; or fill out in **PEN** and **paperclip** together for mailing.

Please include the following items with your application:

- A current photo of yourself.
- \$25 application fee.
- Two letters of recommendation from a teacher or counselor.

Student Information:

Name _____
(List your FULL NAME as it does or will appear on your passport.)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____ Date of birth _____

Gender _____ Grade _____ School _____

Your Home:

Mother/Father/Parent's Name _____ **Cell** _____

Address (if different than yours) _____

Place of employment _____ Job title _____

Work phone _____ E-mail _____

Mother/Father/Parent's Name _____ **Cell** _____

Address (if different than yours) _____

Place of employment _____ Job title _____

Work phone _____ E-mail _____

Siblings:

Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Name: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

With whom do you live? _____

Are you able to host a student of the opposite gender? Yes No

What will the student's sleeping arrangements be during their stay in Lexington?

- Share a bedroom with counterpart
- Share a bedroom with sibling of same gender
- Have a private bedroom

Do you have any pets? If so, please list. _____

About you:

What are your favorite subjects in school?

What are your least favorite subjects in school?

What are your interests outside of school?

Do you play any sports or are you involved in any clubs/organizations? Please list:

Describe your personality.

Why do you want to participate in the Lexington – Newmarket Student Exchange?

Why do you think you would be a good candidate for the Lexington – Newmarket Student Exchange?

What are your plans for hosting your student?

Have you ever hosted an exchange student before? Yes No

If yes, describe your experience? _____

Have you ever traveled without your family? Yes No

If yes, to where and how long? _____

Are you participating in any summer programs? Yes No

If yes, explain what programs and dates: _____

Do you have any allergies or medical conditions? Yes No

If yes, please list: _____

For Parents:

What do you think your responsibilities to this student will be?

Describe your family rules.

Do you give permission for your child to be photographed, either individually or as a group, during their exchange experience? Yes No

Parent/Guardian Permission:

I/We, _____, parent/guardian to _____, hereby give permission for my/our child to submit the enclosed application for the 2020 Lexington-Newmarket Student Exchange Program.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Lexington – Newmarket Student Exchange **Guidelines for Letter of Recommendation**

Student Name (First, Middle, Last)

To the Recommender:

This student is applying for the Lexington-Newmarket Student Exchange for summer of 2020. If chosen, the student will travel to Newmarket, England for 10 days to experience English culture and everyday life. In addition, the student will host their English counterpart in Lexington for 10 days. Your candid appraisal of the student's propensity for a successful experience abroad is an important part of their application.

Students are evaluated based on:

- Their motivation for travel and participation in our program
- Flexibility in handling new or difficult situations
- Hosting and family support
- Ability to be a good ambassador for Lexington, Kentucky, America, and their school.
- Character
- Leadership; Community & School Involvement
- Maturity
- Interest in cultural diversity

Please attach this form to your letter.

Teacher's Name: _____

School: _____

Subject Taught: _____

Years you have known this student: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Letters of Recommendation are due by November 1, 2019.

Send or email to:

Alexandra Brewsaugh
abrewsaugh@lexingtonky.gov

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200 East Main Street
Lexington, KY 40507

Thank you for your insights and support of the program.
Your assistance helps us create a wonderful experience for the Newmarket and Lexington students.

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